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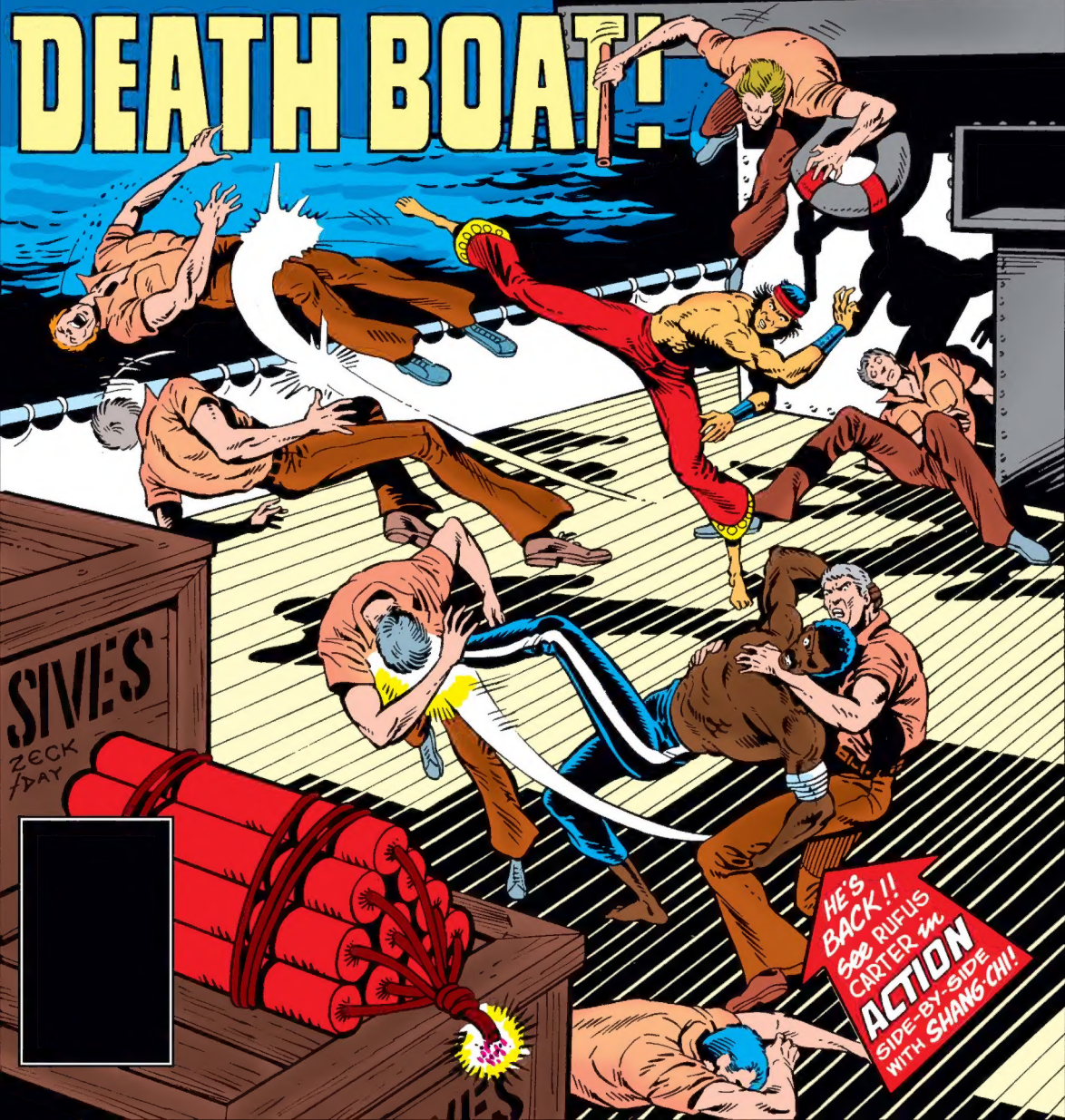
MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI.

MASTER OF KUNG FU

DEATH BOAT!



SIVES
ZECK
/DAY

HE'S
BACK!!
see RUFUS
CARTER in
ACTION
SIDE-BY-SIDE
WITH SHANG-CHI!

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my **father** did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: that my name means 'The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit,' and that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu. Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on Earth... and that to **honor** him would bring nothing but **dishonor** to the spirit of my name."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**®

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER



BITTER HARVEST

"THE INNER COURTYARD OF STORMHAVEN CASTLE IN SCOTLAND, WHERE THE TRANQUILITY OF SMITH'S GARDEN BEARS THE FRUIT OF ODD THOUGHT... ESPECIALLY THE TWO OPPOSING PHRASES, 'NIPPING IN THE BUD' AND 'HARVESTING IN FULL BLOOM'..."

"SOMETIMES EVEN A WEED MUST BE ALLOWED TO BLOOM BEFORE ITS NATURE AS A WEED CAN BE IDENTIFIED."

"BUT THEN, A WEED IS OFTEN SO DESTRUCTIVE BY NATURE THAT IT CAN KILL THE SURROUNDING PLANTS IF IT IS *NOT* NIPPED IN THE BUD..."

"AND SO, ALL *POTENTIAL* WEEDS MUST BE EXTRACTED FROM THE GARDEN, EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF MISTAKENLY EXTRACTING SEVERAL OR MANY INNOCENT PLANTS -- KILLING SOME OF THE GOOD TO ELIMINATE ALL OF THE BAD."

"HOW, I WONDER, MAY THIS PERCEPTION BE APPLIED TO THE LARGER GARDEN OF LIFE...?"

DOUG MOENCH: WRITER
MIKE ZECK: ARTIST

GENE DAY
INKER

JIM NOVAK
LETTERER

BOB SHAREN
COLORIST

JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"A RARE SCOTTISH THUNDERSTORM BREAKS, SILVER SLASHES ON DARK SKY, AND THE PELTING RAIN IS A FORM OF BENEDICTION. NATURE, LEFT TO ITS OWN DEVICES, NURTURES BOTH THE GOOD AND THE BAD, THE ORCHID AND THE WEED, MAKING NO DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN THE TWO--



"-- LEAVING THE STRUGGLE FOR PREEMINENCE TO **THEIR** OWN DEVICES, AND THE STRONGER WILL PREVAIL, WHETHER 'GOOD' OR 'BAD'..."

"THE GARDEN IS BOTH THRASHED AND SOOTHED BY THE RAIN, GIVEN LIFE BY NATURE'S VIOLENCE. IT IS MAN ALONE WHO CAN AND MUST DEAL IN ARBITRARY LABELS OF GOOD AND BAD, BUT IN THE LARGER GARDEN THE DISTINCTION BECOMES AWESOME..."



"...AND THE LABELS MUST **NOT** BE ARBITRARY."



YES, WHO IS--



IS THIS STORMHAVEN?

GOOD HEAVENS, MAN--WHO ARE YOU?

RUFUS CARTER.

CARTER--? THE ONE LEIKO AND SHANG-CHI TOLD ME ABOUT-- THE KARATE CHAMPION...?



...AND EX-CIA AGENT, YES. AND IF YOU'RE SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH--HEAD OF FREELANCE RESTORATIONS-- I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU...

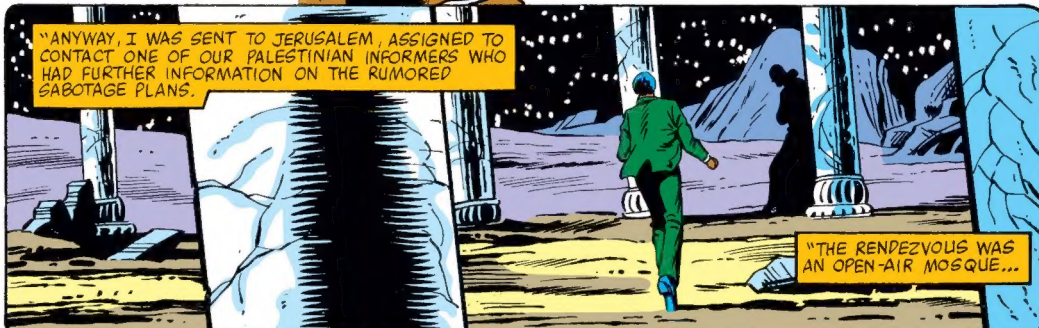
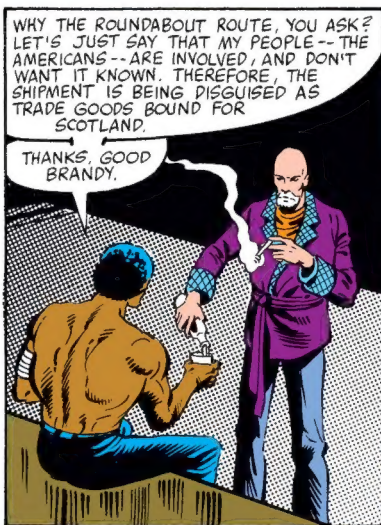
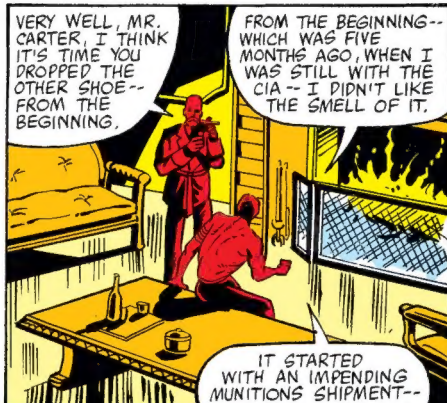
BUT YOU'RE WOUNDED, CARTER--YOU NEED A DOCTOR!



SLUG WENT THROUGH CLEANLY, NO DAMAGE TO THE ARTERY--

--ALTHOUGH I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD CLEAN AND BANDAGE IT--

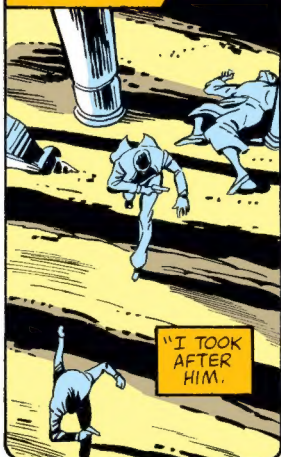
--AFTER YOU GET ME SOME HOT SOUP AND A GOOD STIFF DRINK.



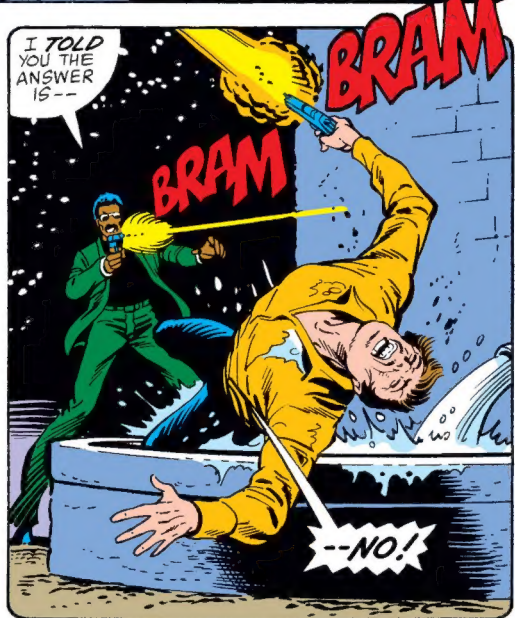
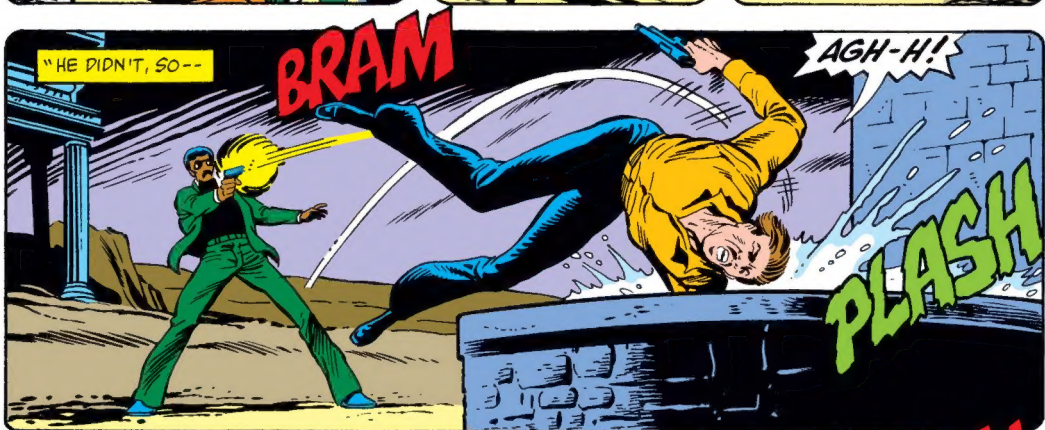
"UNFORTUNATELY, SOMEONE ELSE REACHED THE INFORMER BEFORE I DID..."

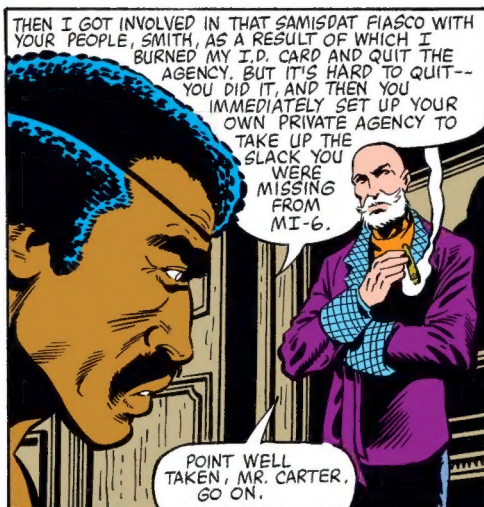
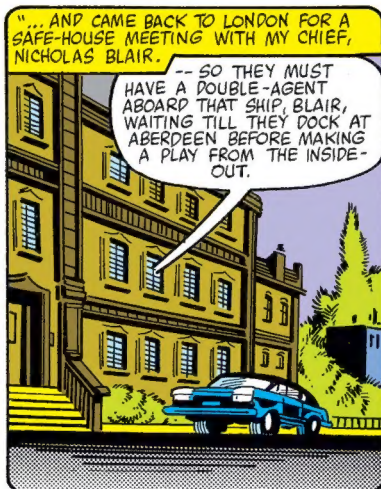
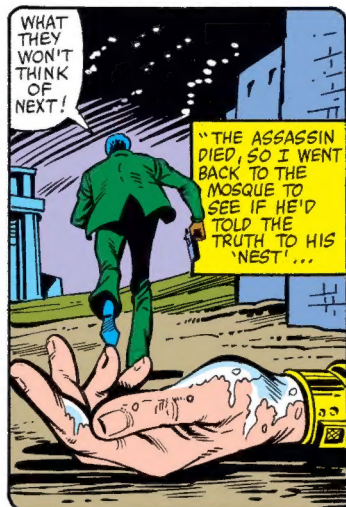
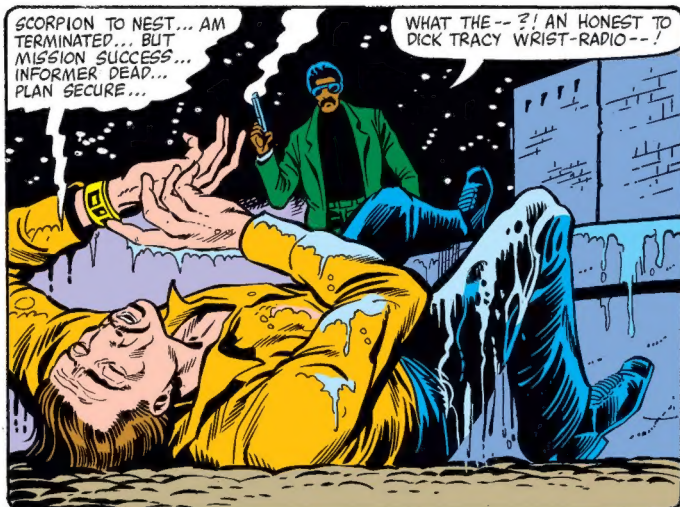


"IT WAS A CRUEL WAY TO DISAPPOINT ME."



FREEZE! THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'M GONNA SAY IT--
FREEZE!!





I ALSO LIKE TO SEE LOOSE ENDS NEATLY TIED, SO WHEN I REMEMBERED THE SHIP IS DUE TOMORROW AT DAWN, I ARRANGED TO MEET BLAIR EARLIER TONIGHT.



HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO ABERDEEN, TO MEET THE SHIP...

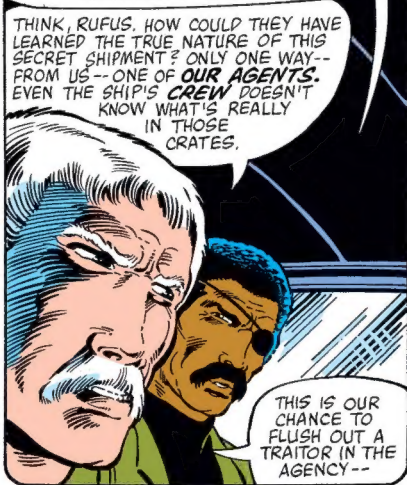
"HE STOPPED ON THE ROAD LONG ENOUGH TO BOGGLE MY BRAIN."

WHAT?! BUT YOU **MUST** STOP IT.



THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT WE MUST **NOT** DO, RUFUS. INDEED, WE MUST ALLOW THE SABOTAGE ATTEMPT TO PROCEED AS FOLLOWS.

WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, NICK? THEY'LL BLOW THOSE MUNITIONS SKY-HIGH--ALONG WITH HALF THE ABERDEEN DOCKS!



THINK, RUFUS. HOW COULD THEY HAVE LEARNED THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS SECRET SHIPMENT? ONLY ONE WAY--FROM US--ONE OF **OUR AGENTS**. EVEN THE SHIP'S **CREW** DOESN'T KNOW WHAT'S REALLY IN THOSE CRATES.

THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO FLUSH OUT A TRAITOR IN THE AGENCY--

--AND DO SEVERE DAMAGE TO ONE OF THE LARGEST TERRORIST GROUPS CURRENTLY OPERATING. WE CAN'T PASS UP THAT CHANCE.

BUT IF YOU--



IF WE TRY TO STOP IT, WE RUN THE RISK OF SCARING HIM OFF!

THEN ALL THE DOUBLE HAS TO DO IS SIT TIGHT, DO NOTHING, AND WAIT FOR THE NEXT OPERATION--HIS COVER INTACT!

WE'D SAVE THIS ONE SHIPMENT, YES, BUT WE'D NEVER KNOW WHEN THE DOUBLE WOULD STRIKE AGAIN! WE'D BE EFFECTIVELY PARALYZED, AFRAID TO TRY **ANYTHING** FOR FEAR--



ALL RIGHT, IF THE COMPANY WON'T DO ANYTHING, **I'LL** DO IT!

YOU CAN'T, CARTER!

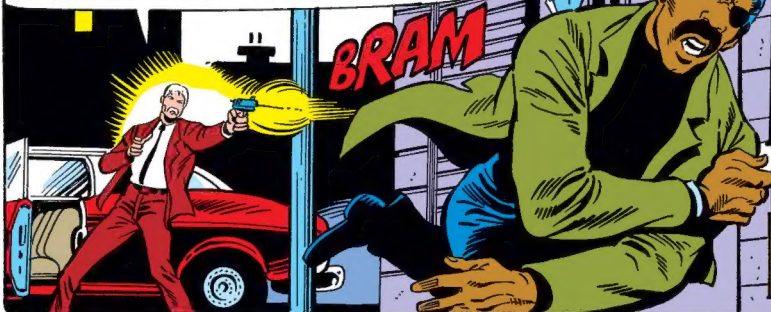
WHO'S GOING TO STOP ME?



YOUR AUTHORITY TURNED TO ASH WHEN I QUIT, REMEMBER?

"AND I WALKED AWAY..."

DON'T BE CRAZY! YOU KNOW I CAN'T LET YOU WALK AWAY AFTER WHAT I TOLD YOU! WE'VE BEEN THROUGH TOO MUCH TOGETHER! DON'T MAKE ME STOP YOU!

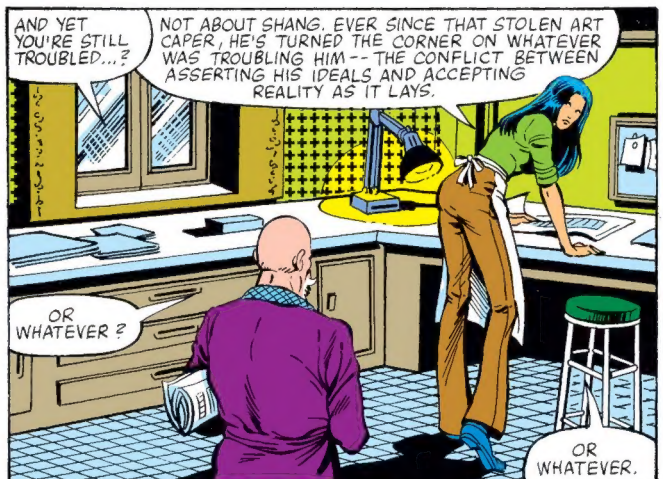
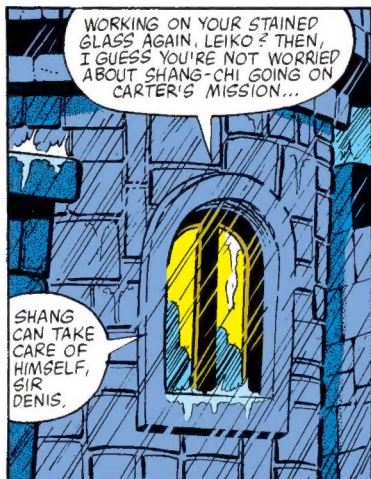
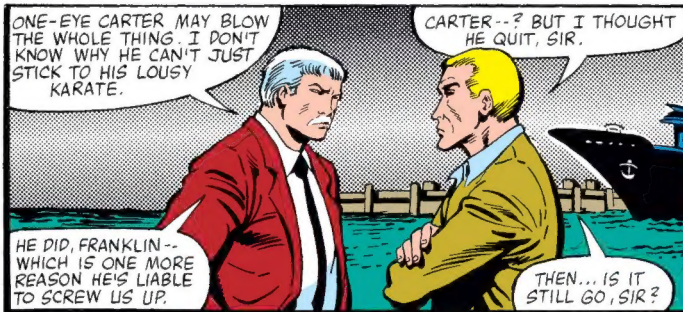
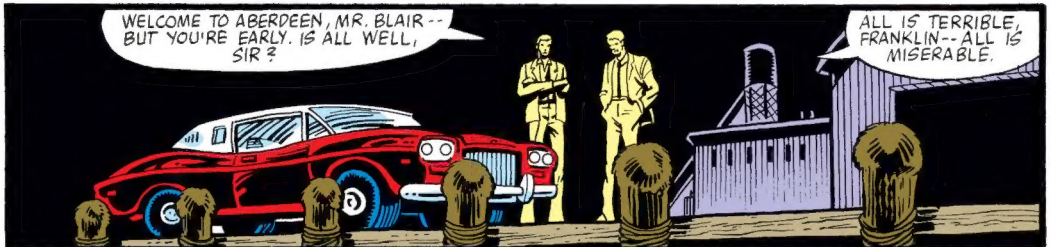
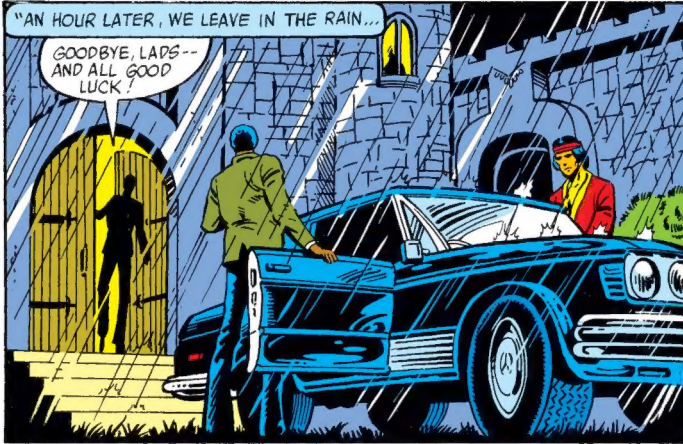


BRAM

"...UNTIL HE WAS FINALLY FORCED TO TAKE A SHOT AT ME.

"BUT OBVIOUSLY I MANAGED TO REACH MY OWN CAR AND COME HERE, SMITH."





THEN YOU'RE TROUBLED ABOUT YOURSELF?

AFTER TURNING THAT CORNER... SHANG'S NEEDED ME LESS. THE FEELINGS ARE STILL THERE, BUT IT'S A... HEALTHIER LOVE NOW, LESS DEPENDENT, LESS CLINGING. I'VE REALIZED HOW MUCH I WAS LEANING ON HIM--

-- WHILE PRETENDING TO PROP HIM UP.

HE'S TWO DIFFERENT PERSONS NOW-- CALM AND GOOD-HUMORED WHEN HE CAN BE, GRIMLY ACCEPTING WHEN HE CAN'T-- RATHER THAN THE SINGLE, CONFUSED, CONFLICTING PERSON HE USED TO BE.

HE'S MANAGED TO SEPARATE THE TWO SIDES OF HIS PERSONALITY, AND IT'S ACTUALLY HELPED HIM... AND SINCE I WAS THE GLUE HOLDING THOSE TWO SIDES TOGETHER--

YOU FEEL YOU WERE PERHAPS HINDERING HIM ALL ALONG?

HINDERING ME, SIR DENIS.

I GOT SO WRAPPED UP IN HIM THAT I ALMOST FORGOT WHO I WAS-- AM. HE AGED ME TEN YEARS-- IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION-- MADE ME YOUNGER, MORE NAIVE, MORE DOUBTFUL.

YOU WERE HARDER, MORE SOPHISTICATED, BEFORE YOU MET THE LAP...

SOME ORCHID. THE WAY I'VE CUT THE GLASS, IT LOOKS MORE LIKE A WEED.

IT'S STILL LOVELY, LEIKO-- SOME WEEDS ARE JUST AS BEAUTIFUL AS ORCHIDS.

SO NOW THAT SHANG-CHI HAS FOUND HIMSELF, SO TO SPEAK, YOU'RE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT YOU'VE LOST YOURSELF!

PARTS OF MYSELF. BEING THE SWEET INNOCENT GAMIN IS FINE, BUT IT'S NOT ALL ME.

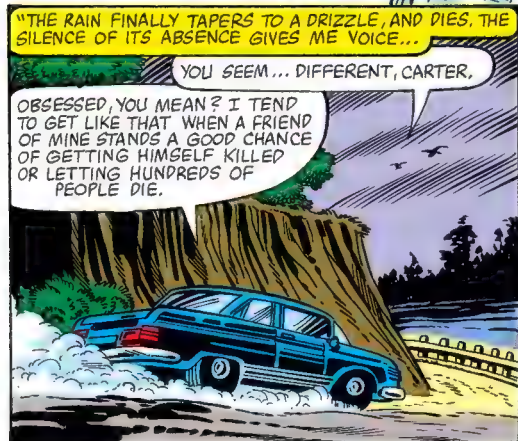
THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT'S STILL TOUGH AND DECISIVE-- A SIDE THAT USED TO TAKE ACTION WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THE PHILOSOPHICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF THE TAO AND UNIVERSAL HARMONY. SHANG'S TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE AN OUTDATED FLOWER CHILD, AND I CHERISH THE LESSON, HOKEY AS IT MAY SOUND...

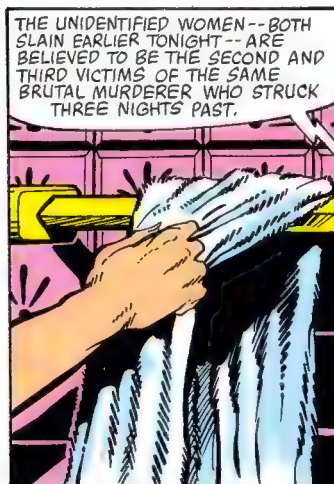
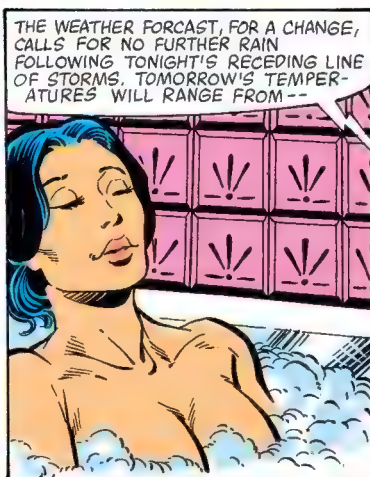
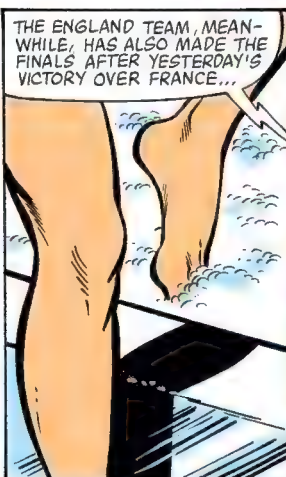
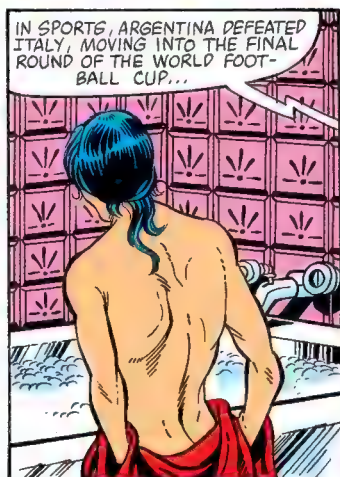
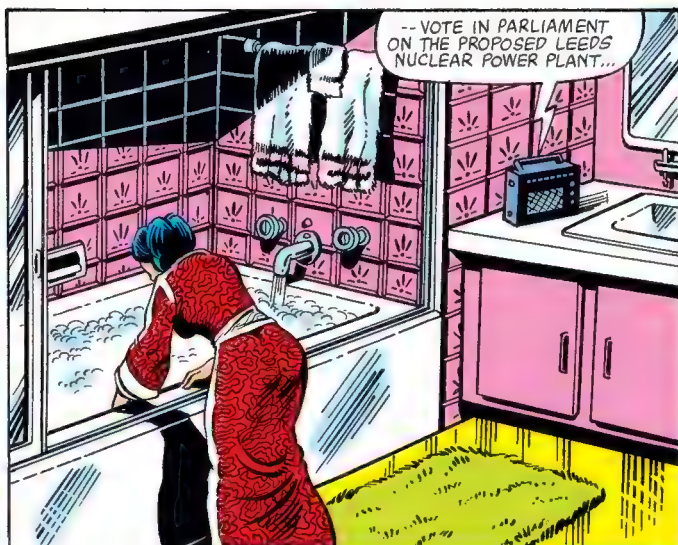
... BUT SOMETIMES I THINK I PREFERRED PLAYING THE PART OF THE SLEEK FEMME FATALE.

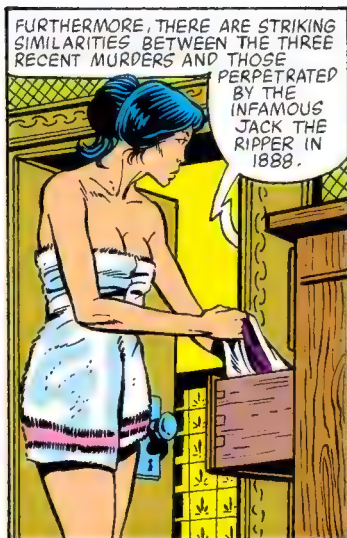
THE CLIVE RESTON TYPE OF WOMAN?

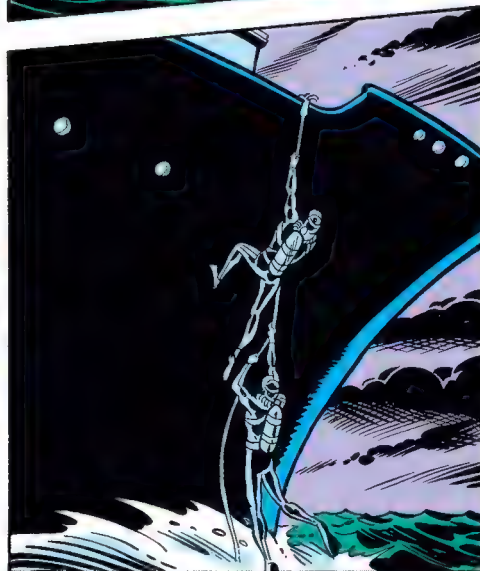
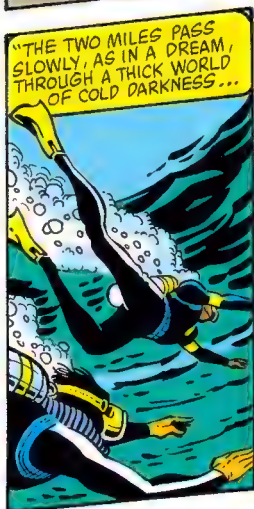
CLIVE HAS CHANGED TOO, ALSO THANKS TO SHANG, AND CONSIDERING CLIVE'S PREDILECTION FOR A MORE RESTRAINED WOMAN LIKE MELISSA GREVILLE THESE DAYS... LET'S SAY THE JAMES BOND TYPE OF WOMAN.

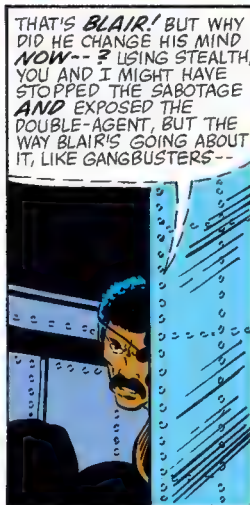
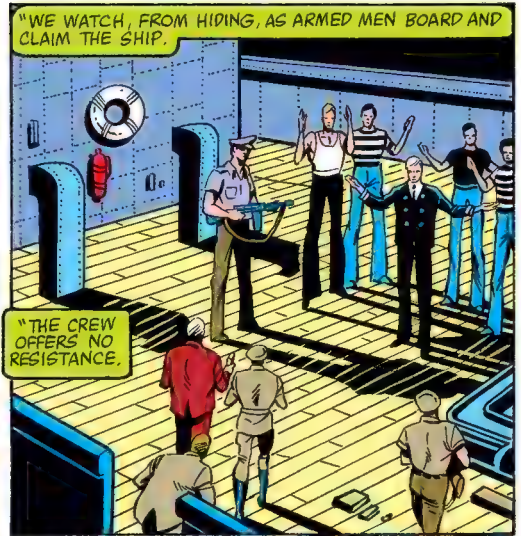
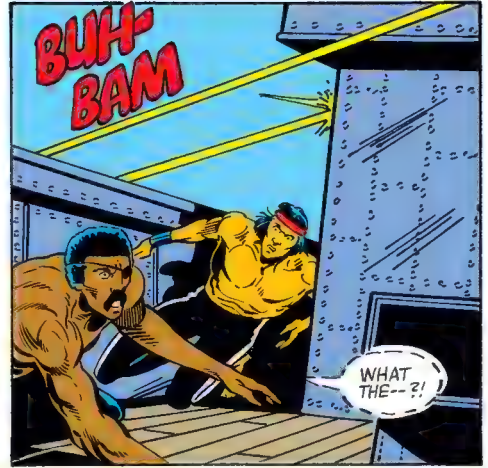
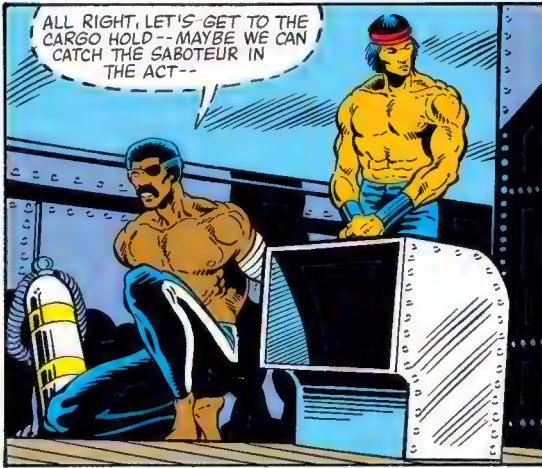
MODESTY BLAISE, PERHAPS...

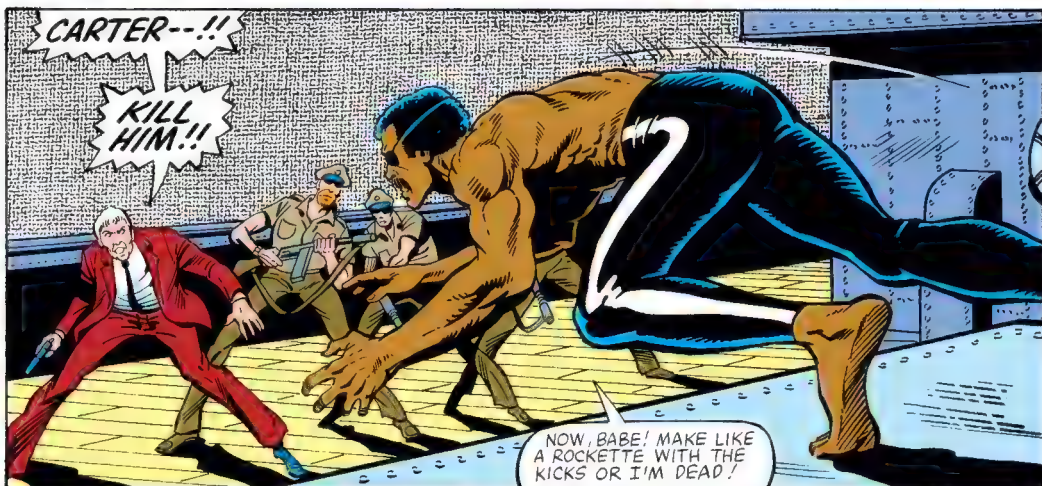


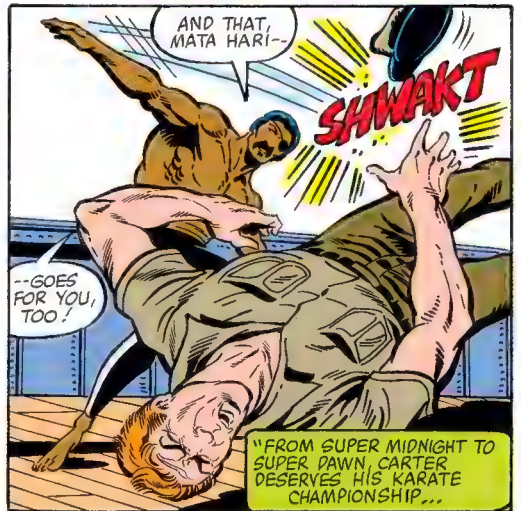
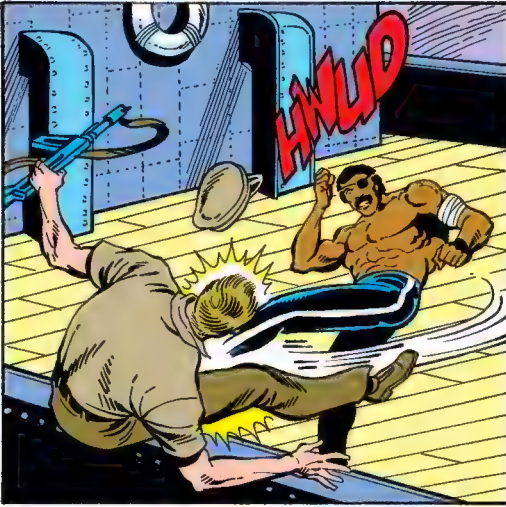


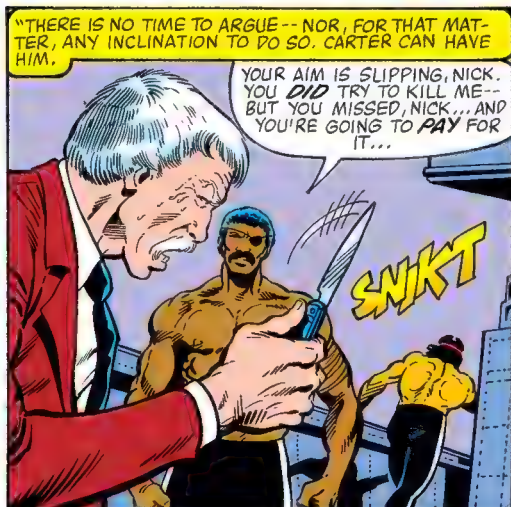
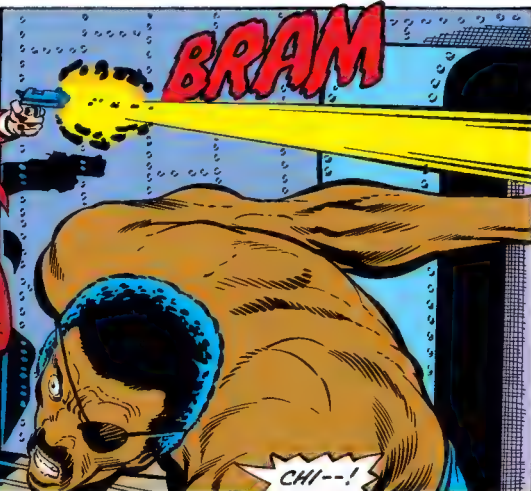
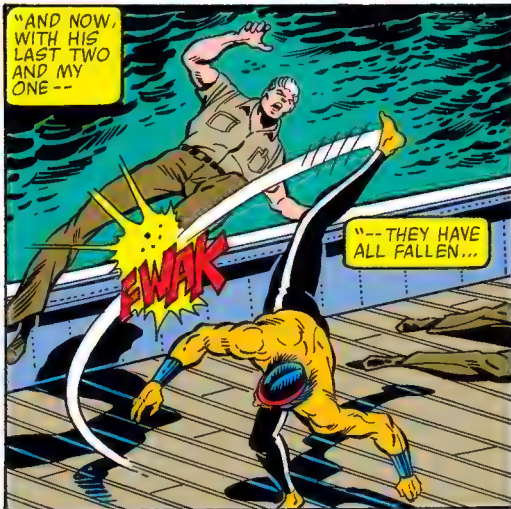


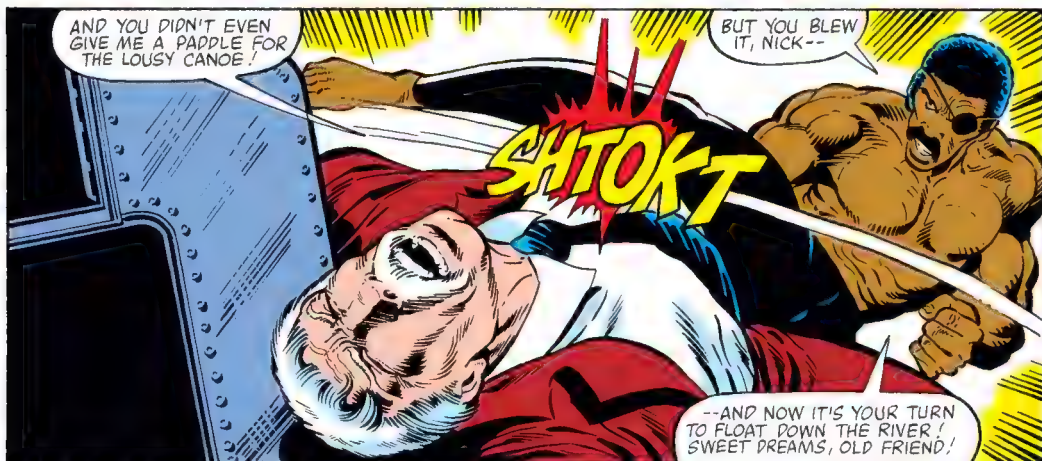


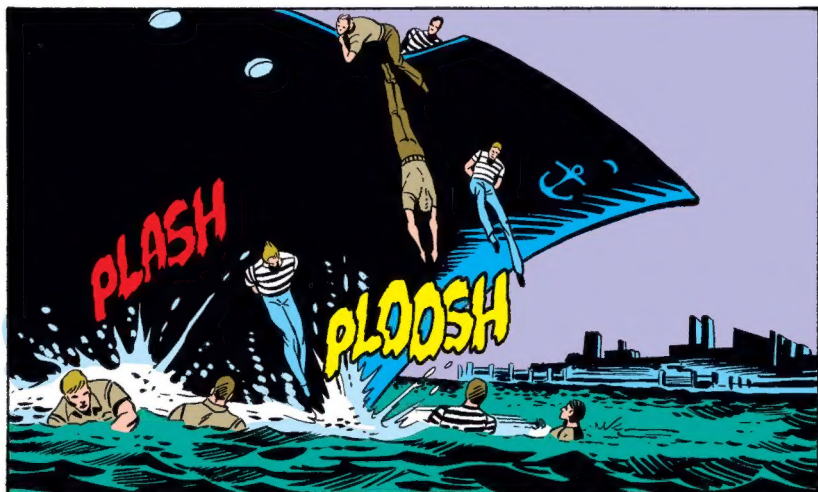


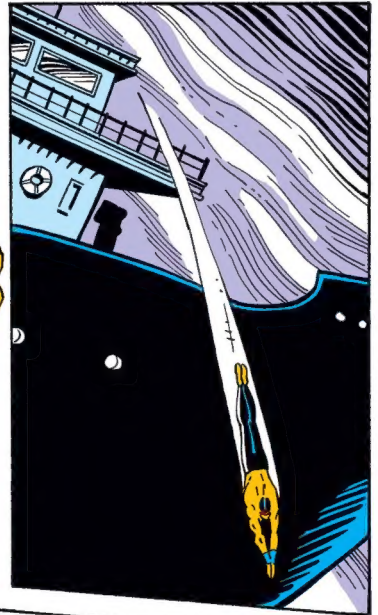
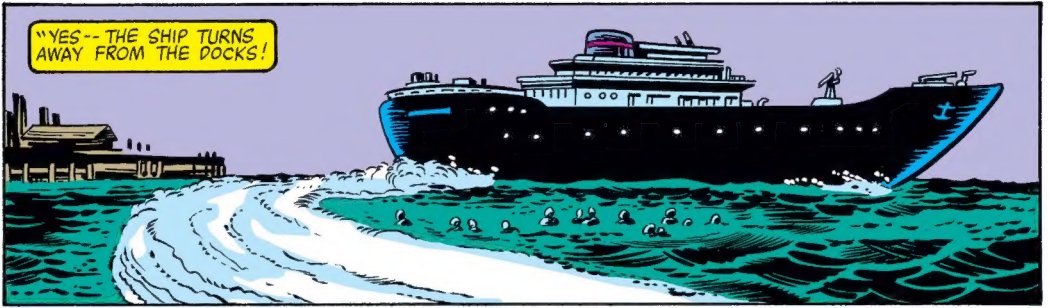














NEXT EXTRA-SPECIAL DOUBLE-SIZED 100TH ISSUE! THE SEEDS OF FU MANCHU'S VENGEANCE PLANTED IN THE PAST--NURTURED IN SHANG-CHI'S CHILDHOOD--AND BLOOMING IN STARK HORROR FOR THE FUTURE! THE HIDEOUS STALKER OF WHITECHAPEL! LEIKO WU'S GREATEST PERIL! AND SHANG-CHI'S MOST DESPERATE BATTLE! ALL IN THE SHOCKER CALLED--

RED OF FANG AND CLAW, ALL LOVE LOST!

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
BOB BUDIANSKY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Doug and Mike:

Y'know, considering the vapidity of much contemporary fantasy literature, it's not often that you come across relationships which resemble in conception, let alone emulate in execution, those we encounter in the so-called real world. Yet, within Shang-Chi's fantasy existence has sprouted the seeds of just such a relationship and, of course, I'm referring to none other than Leiko Wu.

It's also highly unusual—in fact, so rare as to be virtually impossible—to see a *mature* male/female union depicted with its corresponding shades of balancing strengths, shared weaknesses, mutual development and future growth (individually and together). But these traits too are evident in your handling of Chi and Wu. Indeed, the fact that an Oriental character has lasted this long and attained its own niche in the comicbook marketplace is significant in itself. Perhaps it's due to your approach—which lies in tapping the characters' specific humanity, rather than their general heritage.

So what, you ask impatiently, am I trying to say?

Simple: Don't spoil this uniqueness by pulling a Pam Hawley. Or, for those of younger years, a Gwen Stacy—not to mention, if you wanna be really topical, a Jean Grey. (Say, howcum it's only the *women* who get offed all the friggin' time?) In other words, as you continue to chart Shang-Chi's growth, PUH-LEASE don't wreck everything later on down the line by throwing in an "unexpected" and gratuitous death card. When used sparingly, loss can be another means of growth, but death isn't the only option open to you; there are a thousand other variables available and your gents are certainly intelligent enough to utilize them in suitably inspirational fashion.

Still, aside from all that, I applaud your consistency of style and the quality of your imaginations. Yours is one of the very few titles being published that, years from now, connoisseurs of comics will look back on and say, "Now *that* was a series of substance." You should be proud, both of you. I know I am for you.

Earl Davis
State College, PA 16801

Doug,

Shall we begin at the beginning? What a comical pudgy little Charlie Brown Shang-Chi on the splash! Who is Bob Sharen? Nice work, Douglas, I love your fable, except for the words "inferior" and "reclaimed." For some reason, they don't seem to fit the chord pattern. Also, loved the way you patted your own back via Leiko's favorable review of the fable. Nice.

Mike,

I cannot complain about your work. In fact, for composition, figure drawing, and detail, you're every bit as fine as any artist who has drawn the strip. But, like both Weiss and Gulacy, your faces occasionally get the better of you. Especially Reston. And Black Jack Tarr seems to move from 55 to 25 between panels.

Doug,

Love your research and creativity. "Samisdad" has both an Oriental and Slavic flavor, and sounds even more familiar a word than it probably is. I wish the story would have allowed a longer pause in the action and dialogue for the set-up to the "diversion." By the way, whence comes the apt term "tradedcraft"? Doug and Mike,

Action and adventure gripping and clawing for our attention in a violent sweep of pages—yet still, a pause for Shang-Chi's thoughts, recalling issue #20 and the initiation of dichotomy between Shang-Chi's activity and passivity in contrasting thought captions and speech balloons. (But why wasn't Lu Sun mentioned among Shang-Chi's friends? Steve Englehart's characters ain't

good enough for you, Moench?) Maybe someday Shang-Chi will be able to save without hurting, create without destroying. But, sad to say, I don't think so.

Anthony Adams
Pembroke Park, FL 33023

"Samisdad" is an authentic word meaning "passed from hand to hand, growing with each passage." There also exists an "underground" magazine called *Samisdad*, published in the USSR. Finally, one of those Jeanne Dixon-like "psychics" (perhaps Dixon herself) recently predicted a near-future revolt in the Soviet Union, a revolt which would begin quietly enough and in a very minor way but which would geometrically increase in size and intensity as "the word" is passed; it would be led, according to the prognostication, by a coalition of disenfranchised workers operating under the banner "Samisdad."

"Tradedcraft" is by now a commonly accepted term for spying, especially as pertaining to British espionage. While not sure if it's used in the real world of MI-6, I first came upon the term (if memory serves accurately) in John LeCarre's chronicles of George Smiley in the fictional MI-6 realm of "The Circus." And since LeCarre seems to be accurate in other matters...

Finally, I enjoyed Steve Englehart's initial Shang-Chi stories as much as anyone. If you'll check again, you'll see Steve and Jim Starlin's M'Nai character amongst the grouping of Chi's friends. An hour or so of enlightened chat with Lu Sun, however, may make for an extremely interesting encounter but is hardly the basis for a firmly held friendship.

Chord pattern—??

Marvel,

It happens time and time again, so perhaps these words are just so much blowing in the wind, but still I try. It starts when characters become real, deep, consistent, when the action is fast, beautifully staged, and always essential to the plot, when the reader is hooked by both the storyline and the sustained high standard of art. So I ask: Why? Why do sales figures become so important? Must MASTER OF KUNG FU follow the well-blazed trail of the Silver Surfer, Warlock, or Omega (stunted early in its growth and later butchered in a pair of DEFENDERS stories)? I have learned and grown with Shang-Chi; my spirit truly rises and advances in those precious twenty minutes each month. I have been consumed by his life and have vicariously experienced his entire gamut of emotions. And now, just as he has sent his father off to certain defeat, for the second time, must I lose the beauty of his words and movements? Must I lose the rhythm and involved simplicity of Doug Moench's words, the strength and care of Mike Zeck's art? Must you cancel the most carefully conceived and executed work ever produced at Marvel?

Lord, I hope not. Please tell me that I have misinterpreted the yellow blurb at the end of the letters page in issue #39.

Timothy Schwindinger
Kendall Park, NJ 08824

You have misinterpreted the yellow blurb at the end of the letters page in issue #89, Tim. (You can sigh with relief now.) When we stated our aim of "shifting gears to give Shang-Chi a shot in the arm," we were referring to the quality of the series' content and not to sales figures — although, of course, increased sales are hardly frowned upon.

To celebrate MOKF's staying power — as well as our 100th anniversary — next issue is a double-sized dose of dynamite called "Red of Fang and Claw, All Love Lost." And believe us, it's not what you expect!

See you then.

—Doug Moench

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6. Names and addresses of the publisher, editor, and managing editor: Stan Lee, 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022; Editor: Jim Shooter, 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022; Managing Editor: Jim Shooter, 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022

7. Owner: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately followed by the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address as well as that of each individual must be given.) Marvel Comics Group, 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022; Cadence Industries Corporation, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07088

8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: None.
9. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates (Section 132.122, PSN): The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: To publish and distribute comic books and related material. Changes during preceding 12 months: (If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change.) None.

10. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION
A. Total No. Copies (net press run): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 275,823

B. Paid Circulation: (1) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 127,506; Single issue nearest to filing date: 127,506. (2) Paid distribution outside the United States: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 2,368; Single issue nearest to filing date: 2,028.

C. Free Distribution by Mail: (Sum of 10B1 and 10B2) Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 127,356; Single issue nearest to filing date: 127,356.
D. Free Distribution by other means, samples, complimentary, and exchange: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 575; Single issue nearest to filing date: 585.

E. Total Distribution (Sum of B, C, and D): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 130,449; Single issue nearest to filing date: 127,944.
F. Copies Not Distributed: (1) Office use, left-overs, unsold copies, etc.: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 127,506; Single issue nearest to filing date: 127,506. (2) Returns from News Agents: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 143,250; Single issue nearest to filing date: 143,250.

G. Total (Sum of E, F, and 10A) should equal net press run shown in 10A: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 275,823; Single issue nearest to filing date: 275,823.
H. Extent and Nature of Circulation: (1) Paid circulation: (a) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 127,506; Single issue nearest to filing date: 127,506. (b) Paid distribution outside the United States: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 2,368; Single issue nearest to filing date: 2,028. (c) Free distribution by mail: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 127,356; Single issue nearest to filing date: 127,356. (d) Free distribution by other means, samples, complimentary, and exchange: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 575; Single issue nearest to filing date: 585.

(2) Copies not distributed: (a) Office use, left-overs, unsold copies, etc.: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 127,506; Single issue nearest to filing date: 127,506. (b) Returns from News Agents: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 143,250; Single issue nearest to filing date: 143,250.

I. Total (Sum of G and H) should equal net press run shown in 10A: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 275,823; Single issue nearest to filing date: 275,823.
J. Statement of the accuracy of the statements made by the above are correct and complete.
K. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates (Section 132.122, PSN): The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: To publish and distribute comic books and related material. Changes during preceding 12 months: (If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change.) None.

L. Signature and Title of Publisher, Editor, or Business Manager: (Signature) Ed Shukin — Business Manager (Typed Name) Ed Shukin — Business Manager